

Partners in Flight

L A T A N G A R A

Newsletter of the International Working Group of Partners in Flight
a Hemisphere-wide bird conservation initiative.

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers:

I had the pleasure of participating in the VII Congress of Neotropical Ornithology, October 5th-11th, in Termas de Puyehue, Chile. Around 500 people from more than 25 countries of the Americas, the Caribbean and Europe congregated to expose their most recent works. During the Congress there were around 139 panels, 119 symposiums, 24 workshops, 117 oral presentations among other activities. At the same time 60 new readers for

La Tangara were added to the electronic list, as well as information for this edition, among them, the activities that BirdLife does in Latin America.

I would like to thank the organizers of this magnificent event, especially Ellen Paul, from The Ornithological Council, for obtaining free lunches for various Latin American grantees. Also, the Latin American group that participated in the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation workshop prior to the congress wants to thank Eloise Canfield for organizing this event and getting the funds for the participants.

Cheers,

José M. Zolotoff-Pallais
Editor

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

The workshop was held prior to the VIIth Neotropical Ornithological Congress, Parque Nacional Puyehue, Chile. Eloise Canfield, from NFWF coordinated the workshop. On this event there were 15 participants from Latin America. The event was designed for Latin American ornithologists and representatives of conservation NGOs in the region interested in improving the sustainability of their programs and organizations. The topics covered on this workshop were: 1) Funding your bird conservation project, *Presenter: Megan Hill, Rare Center for Tropical Conservation*; 2) How to write and publish a scientific article, *Presenter: Charles D. Duncan*; 3) Topics in biostatistics and experimental design, *Presenter: Juan Carlos Martínez-Sánchez*. If you are interested in obtaining a free CD copy of the workshop contact: José M. Zolotoff-Pallais, Fundación Cocibolca, Managua, Nicaragua, Tel: 505-248-8235, <mailto:zolotoff@ibw.com.ni>

PARTNERS IN FLIGHT PAN AMERICAN ROUNDTABLE PROCEEDINGS

The roundtable was held during the VIIth Neotropical Ornithological Congress, Parque Nacional Puyehue, Chile. George Wallace from the American Bird Conservancy coordinated the roundtable. The presentations were: 1) Raptor Protection on Powerlines in Latin America, *George Wallace*; 2) Reserva Nacional del Pingüino de Humboldt, Chile, threatened by development pressure, *Guillermo Luna Jorquera*; 3) Expedition birding: A technique for promoting conservation through birders and birding, *Gunnar Engblom*; 4) Developing joint ventures for bird conservation in Mexico, *Xicontencatl Vegas Picos*; 5) Establishing and managing protected areas in Latin America for birds and other wildlife: A Mexican perspective, *Ernesto Enkerling-Hoeflich*; 6) Introduction and overview of the Alliance for Zero Extinction, *George Wallace*; 7) Regional focus: Mexico and Central America, *María del Coro Arizmendi*; 8) Regional focus: The Caribbean, *Leo Douglas*; 9) Regional Focus: Andean South America, *Angélica Estrada*; 10) Regional focus: Brazil, *Jaqueline Goerck*. For more information on the roundtable contact: George Wallace, Director of International Program, American Bird Conservancy, P.O. Box 249, 4249 Loudoun Avenue, The Plains, VA 20198, USA, Tel: 540-253-5780, Fax: 540-253-5782, <mailto:gwallace@abcbirds.org>

COLLABORATIONS FOR "BIRDLIFE IN THE AMERICAS" BULLETIN

The third number of "BirdLife in the Americas" for this year will be published December 3rd. Collaborations and articles in the following subjects are welcome: News and announcements from the Partnership, IBA Program, Grants, Training and Opportunities, Events and Reunions, Publications, and other articles of general interest about site conservation, species, environmental education projects, and work with communities. This bulletin will dedicate a section to the results of World Festival of Birds, so pictures and reports on October's activities can be published. Deadline for submitting articles is November 10th. For more information or to submit collaborations as document attachment in Word format, contact: Itziar Olmedo, Oficial de Comunicaciones/Communications Officer, Americas Regional Office, BirdLife International, Vicente Cárdenas

E5-75 y Japón, 3er Piso, Quito, Ecuador, Tel: + 593 (2) 245-3645, 227-7399, 227-7497, C.P. 17-17-717, Fax: (593-2) 2 277-059, <mailto:birdlife@birdlife.org.ec>

ECUADOR IDENTIFIES 114 IBAS IN ITS FIRST NATIONAL WORKSHOP

Between the 9th and the 11th of July, the National Workshop on Important Bird Areas of Ecuador was held at San Francisco University, Quito. As a result, a list of 95 definitive IBAs was prepared along with 19 potential IBAs for a total of 114 IBAs. For more information contact Juan F. Freile, IBA Coordinator of Ecuador, <mailto:aicas@conservation.org>

PUERTO RICO'S IBA PROGRAM 2003

The Sociedad Ornitológica Puertorriqueña (SOP) has been directing the IBA program since the beginning of 2002. One of the projects is the inventory of an endemic species, which is very vulnerable and virtually unknown, the Elfin Woods Warbler (*Dendroica angela*). The project is directed by the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez. Other projects include the conservation of the Sierra Bermeja, a series of hills in the southeast that provides habitat for 75% of the island's endemic species. For more information contact Addriane G. Tossas, IBA Program Coordinator, SOP, <mailto:agtossas@caribe.net>

A YEAR AND A HALF OF IBAS IN COLOMBIA: A GOOD START

The IBA program has made significant progress since its beginnings in 2001 with coordination by the Alexander von Humboldt Institute, and the support of Birdlife International, World Bank, Royal Embassy of the Netherlands, and the Global Environment Fund. In March 2002, 18 people met in the first IBA workshop to define IBA selection criteria and discuss various aspects of the IBA program. 356 potential IBAs were identified. On July 2003, 25 site monitoring groups were nominated and 103 areas were identified as IBAs in 23 of the 32 states of the country. Fifty of these areas already had a designation form and seven were officially declared IBAs. These are: Eco-Parque Los Besotes, Reserva Natural Laguna de Sonso, Lagunas de Fuguene, Cucunuba y Palacio, Gravillera del Valle del Río Siecha, Selva de Florencia, Reserva Natural Semillas de Agua, Reserva Biológica Cachalu. To motivate the ornithological community and speed up the process of identifying and nominating Colombian IBAs, five regional workshops have been planned. For more information contact Loreta Roselli, IBA coordinator, Alexander von Humboldt Institute, Bogotá, Colombia, <mailto:aicascolombia@humboldt.org.co>, or visit <http://www.humboldt.org.co/conservacion/aicas>

ADVANCES IN BRAZIL'S IBA PROGRAM

In 1999, the Brazil program began specific conservation projects. To date, there is a list of 161 IBAs of the Atlantic forest region. The authors of this inventory, Glayson Bencke and Giovanni Mauricio, are currently revising the directory in this region based on additional information obtained during the most recent IBA workshop held in Brazil last year. For more information contact Jaqueline M. Goerck, Program director, Brazil, <mailto:birdlifebrasil@uol.com.br>

AVES ARGENTINAS COMPLETES ITS THIRD REGIONAL WORKSHOP

Aves Argentinas will have defined the completion of the national inventory of Important Bird Areas of Argentina by the end of 2004. Up until now, three workshops have been held. By the end of February of 2004, Aves Argentinas will have a preliminary document of the IBAs of Argentina. For more information contact Adrian di Giacomo, IBA Coordinator, Asociación Ornitológica del Plata, <mailto:info@avesargentinas.org.ar>

THE NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION ACT GRANTS PROGRAM- 2003 APPROVED PROJECTS

The approved projects for the 2003 Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act Grants Program are: Argentina, Implementing SINAMECOF: An Ecotoxicology Monitoring System – Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria (INTA); Belice, Birds Without Borders – Zoological Society of Milwaukee; Silvopastoral Systems as Habitats for Wintering Neotropical Migratory Passerines – American Bird Conservancy; Bolivia, Building the Basis for Conserving Important Bird Areas, Tropical Andes – Birdlife International, Americas Division; Creating a Community Reserve to Strengthen Conservation Around Amboro

Park – Fundación Natura Bolivia; Chile, VII Neotropical Ornithological Congress – Union de Ornitólogos de Chile (UNORCH); Colombia, Building the Basis for Conserving Important Bird Areas, Tropical Andes – Birdlife International, Americas Division; Colombian Neotropical Migratory Bird Monitoring and Conservation Program – Conservation International; Costa Rica, Completion of the Rincon Rainforest – Asociación Bioguanacaste; Silvopastoral Systems as Habitats for Wintering Neotropical Migratory Passerines – American Bird Conservancy; Dominican Republic, Implementation of Conservation Actions in Representative National Parks of the Dominican Republic – Fundación Moscoso Puello; Ecuador, Building the Basis for Conserving Important Bird Areas, Tropical Andes – Birdlife International, Americas Division; Guatemala, Cerro San Gil Protected Area – Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación (FUNDAECO); Conservation of Temperate Forests and Capacity Building – Pronatura – Chiapas, A.C.; Honduras, Conservation of Temperate Forests and Capacity Building – Pronatura – Chiapas, A.C.; Mexico, Ancient Forest Sanctuaries in the Sierra Madre Occidental – Pronatura – Noreste, A.C.; Bi-National Protection of Upland Stopover Habitat Around the Gulf of Mexico – The Nature Conservancy; Bird Habitat Conservation and Management, El Triunfo Biosphere Reserve – Fondo El Triunfo, A.C.; Community-Based Conservation and Monitoring of Migratory Birds in the Sierra Madre Occidental – Sierra Madre Alliance; Conservation of Temperate Forests and Capacity Building – Pronatura – Chiapas, A.C.; Conserving Rancho Magaña in the Sierra Juarez of Baja California – Terra Peninsular, A.C.; Neotropical Migratory Bird Habitat in Protected Forests and Coffee Plantations – Areas de Protección de Flora y Fauna de Naha y Metzabok; Western N. American Migratory Landbird Project: Wintering Habitats in Mexico – Sonoran Joint Venture; U.S.-Mexico Grassland Bird Conservation – The Nature Conservancy, Colorado State Program; Nicaragua, Silvopastoral Systems as Habitats for Wintering Neotropical Migratory Passerines – American Bird Conservancy; Paraguay, International Training Course on the Management of Wetland Ecosystems – Fundación Moises Bertoni; Peru, Building the Basis for Conserving Important Bird Areas, Tropical Andes – Birdlife International, Americas Division; Suriname, Law Enforcement in the Multiple-Use Management Areas of Suriname – Suriname Forest Service, Nature Conservation Division; Trinidad and Tobago, Restoration of Nariva Swamp Ramsar Site – Ducks Unlimited; United States, Aging and Sexing Neotropical Migrant Waterbirds and Raptors – The Institute for Bird Populations; Bi-National Protection of Upland Stopover Habitat Around the Gulf of Mexico – The Nature Conservancy; Defining Quality Landbird Stopover Habitats in Fragmented Landscapes – The Ohio State Univ.; Eastern Sierra Songbird Conservation – PRBO Conservation Science; Hole in the Doughnut Land Conservation Program – Southwestern Illinois RC&D, Inc.; Loess Hills Grassland Bird Conservation – The Nature Conservancy; Louisiana Waterthrush Ecology and Riparian Conservation in the Georgia Piedmont – University of Georgia Research Foundation, Inc.; MOSI: Assessing Habitat-Specific Overwintering Survival of Neotropical Migratory Landbirds (Caribbean, Central America, and US) – The Institute for Bird Populations; Management of Common and Roseate Terns as an International Resource – National Audubon Society; Nest Substrate Use by SW Willow Flycatcher and Yellow-billed Cuckoo – U.S. Forest Service; Park Flight Migratory Bird Partnerships for Monitoring and Education – National Park Foundation; Rainforest to Cloud forest: Conservation of Forest Birds in the Pacific NW and Mesoamerica – Wolfree, Inc.; Relative Prevalence of African Americans Among Bird Watchers – Lanius Software, Inc.; Toward Bird-Friendly Aviations Hazard Lighting on Tall Man-Made Structures – Old Bird, Inc.; U.S.-Mexico Grassland Bird Conservation – The Nature Conservancy, Colorado State Program; Venezuela, Building the Basis for Conserving Important Bird Areas, Tropical Andes – Birdlife International, Americas Division; Hatos of the Western Llanos, Neotropical Migratory Birds in Private Lands – Mississippi State University; Regional (Neotropics), Birders Exchange: Sharing Tools Saving Birds Across the Americas – American Birding Association. For more information visit:

<http://birdhabitat.fws.gov/NMBCA/projectsNar.htm>

CURRENT STATUS AND CONSERVATION PRIORITIES FOR BLUE FRONTED PARROT (*Amazona aestiva*) IN ARGENTINA

According to Enrique H. Bucher, the most experienced professional in the study of the Blue-fronted Parrot (*Amazona aestiva*) in Argentina, the Blue Fronted Parrot has suffered declines in geographic area as well as in its abundance. In the provinces of Cordoba, La Rioja, Catamarca and south of Santiago del Estero only small and totally isolated populations survive. In the central area of its distribution (north of Santiago del Estero, Formosa, Chaco, Partes del Corrientes, Salta, Tucuman y Jujuy) the population has decreased dramatically since

1980, when Ridgely considered it one of the most abundant parrots in the region. The most abundant reasons for this decline are the destruction of the madiro forest (where there are hollow trees to nest) by overgrazing, forest exploitation, and the conversion to agriculture; as well as poaching for the pet trade, which implies the destruction of the tree or at least the nest. Added to all this is the deforestation of areas of wintering habitat which has increased noticeably because of the expansion of citric farms. For more information contact: Enrique H. Bucher, Centro de Zoología Aplicada, Universidad de Córdoba, Argentina, <mailto:buchereh@cordoba.com.ar>

EL HORNERO RENOVATED

The Neotropical ornithology journal "El Hornero" is produced by Aves Argentinas/Asociación Ornitológica del Plata. For the past couple of years, it has renovated its format with a new design, new sections, and a new editorial committee. El Hornero appears in one volume of two numbers per year (July and December) and is one of the main tools for ornithologists of the region to show the results of their research. On average, submitted articles take 3 months to be reviewed and obtain a first verdict on publication. Publication in El Hornero is free; authors receive reprints free of charge and a version of their article in PDF format for personal use. El Hornero is indexed in various bibliographic services (Biological Abstracts, Zoological Record, BIOSIS Previews, LATINDEX, BINPAR, Ulrich's Periodicals Directory and ROL). Those interested in publishing in the journal must contact the editor: Javier López de Casenave, Dept. Ecología, Genética y Evolución, FCEyN, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Piso 4, Pab 2, Ciudad Universitaria, C1428EHA, Buenos Aires, Argentina, <mailto:hornero@bg.fcen.uba.ar>

WEB NEWS

GRANTS FOR MEXICANS: The Government of Canada is offering grants for Mexican nationals to realize masters, doctorate, research and post-doctorate internships in different areas at: <http://www.sre.gob.mx>

AQUATIC BIRD HABITAT MAP OF THE SOUTHERN ALTIPLANO OR PUNA at: <http://rockys20.cr.usgs.gov/argentina/initialpg.htm>

THIRD EDITION OF THE ELECTRONIC URUTAU (Guyra Paraguay Newsletter) at: <http://www.guyra.org.py>

UPDATED ENGLISH-SPANISH GLOSSARY OF ORNITHOLOGICAL TERMS at: <http://www.umsl.edu/studentlife/biograd/Glossary.htm>

WILDLIFE COUNTS SOFTWARE. This is a new training tool for estimating bird and other wildlife population sizes. To download and try the free demonstration version, visit: <http://www.wildlifecounts.com>

RAVEN 1.1 FOR MAC OS AND WINDOWS, an interactive sound recording and analysis program designed specifically for bioacousticians. A free demonstration version of the program, is available at: <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/Raven>

BASIC INFORMATION ON BINOCULARS at: <http://www.binoculars101.com/>.

EAGLE OPTICS at: <http://www.eagleoptics.com/>

THE AUK ONLINE, volumes 1-116 are now available online for free at: <http://www.aou.org>

ORNITHOLOGICAL WORLDWIDE LITERATURE. The AOU is proud to cosponsor this initiative, a compilation of citations and abstracts pertaining to ornithology from the scientific literature. The searchable database will be free when it launches in late 2003 with more than 20,000 citations. OWL expects to have by 2005 a database of nearly 100,000 records. Contacts and some data are available at:

<http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/ROL>

RADIO TRANSMITTERS BY HOLOHIL SYSTEMS, manufacturer of radio transmitters suitable for tracking species ranging from beetles to whales at: <http://www.holohil.com>

BIRD WEB SITES OF INTEREST:

- Bulletin Board for Ornithologists working with Neotropical Birds at: <http://www.boc-online.org>
- Journal of Marine Ornithology at: <http://www.marineornithology.org>
- El Escribano Digital, the electronic publication of SEO/Birdlife at: <http://www.seo.org/escribano>
- Birds from Honduras web site at: <http://www.birdinghonduras.com>

FUNDING

THE NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION ACT GRANTS PROGRAM

Passed by the U.S. Congress in 2000, the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act establishes a matching grants program to fund projects that promote the conservation of these birds in the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean. The Act's goals are to perpetuate healthy populations of Neotropical migratory birds, assist in the conservation of these birds by supporting conservation initiatives in the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean, and provide financial resources and foster international cooperation for those initiatives. Any U.S., Latin American, or Caribbean individual, corporation, government agency, trust, association, or other private entity can apply for funding. For every \$1 received in grant funds, the applicant must commit \$3. Project proposals need to demonstrate how a conservation partnership's activities will foster sustainable, effective, long-term programs to conserve Neotropical migratory birds. Application instructions for the 2004 program are posted at: <http://birdhabitat.fws.gov>. For more information, contact Doug Ryan at 703-358-1784, <mailto:neotropical@fws.gov>

BRITISH PETROLEUM CONSERVATION PROGRAM (BP)

The British Petroleum (BP) Conservation Program's mission is to engage, encourage and train the conservationists of the future through the facilitation of sustainable projects that address global priorities at a local level. This initiative is organized by BirdLife International, Conservation International (CI), Fauna & Flora International (FFI), the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and BP. Priority will be given to projects addressing a globally recognized conservation priority, involving local people, that have been approved by the host government, being led by a student, having over half the team members registered university students, lasting less than one year, and taking place in Africa, Asia, the Pacific, the Middle East, Eastern Europe or Latin America. All project teams will be asked to submit a completed application form in English to the Program Manager. We prefer to receive completed applications via email, but will also accept those applications received by post. Entrants will be informed of the results by the end of March. Application deadline is October 31, 2003. For information about the Program and how to apply visit: <http://conservation.bp.com/>

AOU MEMBERSHIP GRANTS FOR STUDENTS

The American Ornithologists' Union provides students membership awards in the form of a three year AOU membership to qualified graduate students interested in pursuing a career in ornithology. Membership grants provide full membership in the AOU (including subscription to The Auk) for three consecutive years. Students may apply at any time during the academic year, but are encouraged to apply prior to November 1, 2003 to receive the first issue of the Auk in January 2004. To qualify the student must provide a resume or CV describing the current degree program, the expected date of completion and the candidate's academic records

and/or experience, and provide a brief letter of sponsorship from an academic advisor. For more information or to send materials contact: Dr. Erica Nol, Chair AOU Membership Committee, Biological Department, Trent University, Peterborough, ON K9J 7B8, <mailto:enol@trentu.ca>

TRAINING / JOB OPPORTUNITIES

FIELD ASSISTANTS FOR PROJECT AT PARQUE NACIONAL YACAMBU, LARA, VENEZUELA

The project "Life History Evolution of Neotropical Passerines" is part of a long-term research project that studies the variations of Life Histories between birds of the Northern and Southern Hemisphere. The season begins March 22, 2004 and continues thru July 22, 2004. The work consists on searching monitoring nests, banding of adults and nestlings, measuring egg mass, growth rate of nestlings and video recording parental activities at the nest. Experience in nest search and monitoring is required. The ability to work in a group under adverse weather, such as heavy rain, is indispensable for the position. Monthly compensation is \$500.00 USD (paid in local currency) and \$750.00 USD to cover travel expenses to the study site. Housing is provided in the park, shared with the group of 10 persons. The work scheme is 12 consecutive workdays with 2, 3 days alternatively for rest. The review of applications will begin October 25, 2003 till all available positions are filled. Please send cover letter where you express your interest and relevant experience, as well as CV with contact information for 3 references to: Alina Niklison, Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, 205 Natural Science Bldg., University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812, USA, <mailto:alina@selway.umt.edu>

FIELD ASSISTANT NEEDED FOR RESEARCH IN MEXICO

A field technician is needed for the Pacific coast of Mexico this coming fall/winter/spring for a project related to the winter ecology of the endangered Black-capped Vireo (*Vireo atricapillus*). Fieldwork will be conducted at a variety of locations at sites near the coast and along the western slopes of the Sierra Madre, from southern Sonora down to Oaxaca. Housing will be a combination of camping and use of hotels. Fieldwork will involve actively seeking black-capped vireos and mist-netting to capture individuals found. Point count surveys, behavioral observations and intensive habitat data collection will also be conducted. Requirements are: Experience netting/handling birds and conducting point counts; working knowledge of the birds of western Mexico; and experience working with black-capped vireo, or experience collecting behavioral data; knowledge of Spanish is desirable but not indispensable. It is ideal to have a strong work ethic and a positive attitude. To apply send resume, contact information for references, and a letter stating why you're interested and what your short-term/long-term plans/goals may be, as well as anything else not covered in the resume that may be useful. To apply or for more information contact: Robert A. Powell, Graduate Research Assistant, Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences, 210 Nagle Hall 2258 TAMU, Texas A & M University, College Station, TX, 77843-2258, USA, Telephone: (979) 845-5777, <mailto:rpowell@tamu.edu>

SCIENCE OFFICER FOR A NEW DIVERSITAS OFFICE IN VENEZUELA

DIVERSITAS is an international science program seeking a Science Officer to staff the new office it is opening in Caracas, Venezuela, to manage one of its three core projects under the chairmanship of Dr. Jon Paul Rodríguez. A highly motivated individual who is committed to the inter-disciplinary approach to biodiversity science is needed. The successful applicant will have a Ph.D. in the natural sciences or in the economic and social sciences, as well as excellent bilingual (Spanish and English) written and oral communication skills. Preference will be given to applicants with a track record in interdisciplinary approaches. We would expect the successful applicant to start in late 2003 or early 2004. The appointment is for one year, renewable for two more years subject to availability of funds. The post involves the day-to-day management of the core science program, including liaison with the Chair and Steering Committee to execute the strategic plan; help to raise funds for workshops and other research activities; organize meeting agendas and logistics; edit and coordinate publication of news and scientific publications, and coordinate dissemination of findings; maintain an up-to-date website. The successful candidate will also be expected to provide research support, and will have an

opportunity to develop research within the DIVERSITAS program. To submit send: cover letter describing qualifications and interest in this position, Curriculum vitae, two samples of recent written work (one in Spanish and another in English), and three professional references. Sent in electronic form, or mailed using a private courier. Applications must be received by 31 October 2003. To apply or for more information contact: Jon Paul Rodríguez, Centro de Ecología, Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Científicas, Km 11 Carretera Panamericana, Estado Miranda, Venezuela, <mailto:jonpaul@ivic.ve>

MEETINGS

NORTH AMERICAN DUCK SYMPOSIUM to be held in Sacramento, California in November 2003. Continuing in the tradition of the 1st North American Duck Symposium, held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 1997, and the 2nd Symposium held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan in 2000, the conference program will include invited plenary papers by internationally recognized speakers, contributed oral and poster paper sessions and evening workshops. Our goal is to provide a forum for managers, researchers, students and other concerned individuals to share their concerns, ideas and solutions to the issues facing North American ducks in the new century. More information can be found at <http://www.ducksymp3.com>.

VII CONGRESS OF THE MESOAMERICAN SOCIETY FOR BIOLOGY AND CONSERVATION, Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, Mexico, November 3-7, 2003. The academic program will include oral presentation sessions, poster sessions, magisterial conferences, symposiums, workshops and courses. For more information consult the Society's web site at: <http://www.socmesoamericana.org>

SECOND ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF BIRDS OF YUCATAN, November 15-22, 2003. The festival objective is to promote the State of Yucatan as a tourist destination for those interested in nature and Mayan culture. The festival includes conferences, workshops, photographic expositions, and bird watching among other activities. Contact information: Ecoturismo Yucatan: Tel.: (52-999) 920-2772, Fax: (52-999) 925-9047; <mailto:toh@ecoyuc.com> or visit <http://www.yucatanbirds.org.mx>

VI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT IN AMAZONIA AND LATIN AMERICA. Iquitos, capital of the Peruvian Amazon, September 5th-10th, 2004. The conference is organized by The National University of the Peruvian Amazon (UNAP), the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). Participation by students, professionals, local communities, NGO's, government representatives and the general public, are welcome. Special emphasis during this conference will be on wildlife conservation and management in Amazonia and Latin America. Discussions and presentations will look at the advances made for conservation, and the design, development, implementation, methods, and management plans for wildlife in Amazonia and Latin America. For further information about the conference; submission of abstracts, workshops, and courses; and information on registration and hotels, visit the conference website at: <http://www.vicongreso.com.pe/>. If you have any questions contact the organizers at: <mailto:congresofauna@amauta.rcp.net.pe>

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

AQUATIC BIRD HABITAT MAP OF THE SOUTHERN ALTIPLANO OR PUNA. The map is based on a research project conducted by investigators from the USGS Fort Collins Science Center and the National University of Salta Argentina supported by a grant from the Committee for Research and Exploration National Geographical Society. The website was created by the USGS Rocky Mountain Mapping Center. The area encompassed by the map is 245,000 square kilometers and includes a number of Argentine and Chilean National Parks, UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Reserves, and six Ramsar International Wetland Sites. The link to the initial page is: <http://rockys20.cr.usgs.gov/argentina/initialpg.htm>

DIGITAL DISTRIBUTION MAPS OF BIRDS OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE AVAILABLE, by R.S. Ridgely, T.F. Allnutt, T. Brooks, D.K. McNicol, D.W. Mehlman, B.E. Young, and J.R. Zook. This is the product of a three-year collaboration among the coauthors, Nature Serve, Conservation International-Center for Applied Biodiversity Science, The Nature Conservancy-Migratory Bird Program, World Wildlife Fund-US, and Wildspace Canada. The goal was to compile existing information on bird distributions into a single digital map representing the distribution of each species known from the Western Hemisphere. Our emphasis was on the lesser-known species of Latin America and the Caribbean, but we include all species for completeness. This compilation is meant as a resource for conservationists, scientists, students and policy-makers. The compilation covers 4,336 species. The maps are annotated to indicate migratory status, historic versus current ranges, origin (native or introduced), taxonomic decisions, distributional comments, and bibliographic sources. The migratory status indications are particularly detailed, distinguishing where birds are permanent residents, breeding residents, non-breeding residents, or passage migrants. This CD was designed for PC platforms that run either Arc View 3.X or Arc Explorer software, two standards in the GIS market. If you do not have access to one of these programs, you will not be able to use the information on the CD. Copies of this CD can be obtained free of charge while supplies last by writing to mailto:bruce_young@natureserve.org. The data is available freely on the web in the Get Data section of Nature Serve's website at <http://www.natureserve.org>.

BIRDING IN VENEZUELA, by Mary Lou Goodwin, it is a completely revised and up-dated edition of the acclaimed Audubon Guide. It includes all you need to know about visiting the main Venezuelan locations for observing birds, including how to get to the sites, lodging, list of species in the area and maps. The book contains 336 pages and is available from Lynx Editions at: <http://www.hbw.com>

BIRDS OF PATAGONIA, TIERRA DEL FUEGO & ANTARCTIC PENINSULA, THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND SOUTH GEORGIA, by E. Couve & C. Vidal. This is the most comprehensive and up-to-date photographic field guide to all the resident, migrant and vagrant birds of Patagonia, Tierra del Fuego and the Antarctic Peninsula, including the Falklands and South Georgia Islands. Over 430 species are described, more than 300 species with 2,000-plus images set opposite concise descriptive accounts of identification, status, habits, conservation issues and range maps for each species. Introductory sections provide: a synopsis of the region, a selection of maps, notes on how to use the species accounts and a complete selection of bird topography diagrams. The guide also includes an updated appendix describing the status of 133 resident, regular visitors, accidental and introduced species in the region. The book is available in Chile through Fantástico Sur at <http://www.fantasticosur.com>; in the US, from American Birding Association Sales, at: <http://www.americanbirding.org>; and in the UK from NHBS at: <http://www.nhbs.com>

DIRECTORY OF THE IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS OF PANAMA RELEASED

The book was produced by Birdlife International's Partner in Panama, the Panama Audubon Society, with financing from Vogelbescherming Nederland and the United State Forest Service. The 342-page book, written in both English and Spanish, describes each of the 88 IBA's in the country. For more information contact: George Angehr, <mailto:angehr2@tivoli.si.edu>

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